

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 EUR-12 H-01 INR-10
IO-13 L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-05
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 NSC-05 SOE-02 NRC-05
DOE-11 OES-07 /124 W
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P R 230920Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5518
INFO SECDEF WASHDC
CINCPAC HONOLULU
COMUSJAPAN YOKOTA

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: MARR, JA
SUBJECT: SONODA ON NUCLEAR ARMAMENTS

1. AT LOWER HOUSE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE FEBRUARY 22, FONMIN SONODA, RESPONDING TO QUESTION BY JSP MEMBER TAKAKO DOI, SAID THAT BASED ON FACT THAT ART 98 OF CONSTITUTION REQUIRED FAITHFUL OBSERVANCE OF TREATIES AND JAPAN HAD RATIFIED NPT, JAPAN COULD POSSESS NEITHER LARGE NOR SMALL NUCLEAR WEAPONS. DOI'S QUESTION WAS TIMULATED BY JDA DEFENSE BUREAU DIRGEN ITO'S REITERATION TO DIET FEBRUARY 18 OF LONG-STANDING GOJ CONTENTION THAT ART 9 OF CONSTITUTION DID NOT PROHIBIT POSSESSION OF STRICTLY DEFENSIVE NUCLEAR WEAPONS. AT FEBRUARY 22 SESSION, ITO QUICKLY FELL INTO LINE WITH SONODA BY NOTING THAT HIS PREVIOUSLY HELD POSITION ON ISSUE WAS BASED ON INTERPRETATION OF ART 9 ONLY AND WHEN ART 98 AND NPT WERE CONSIDERED, JAPAN COULD NOT POSSESS NUCLEAR WEAPONS. FOLLOWING SESSION
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ITO NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT IF JAPAN SHOULD AT SOME TIME IN FUTURE WITHDRAW FROM NPT, ART 9 INTERPRETATION WOULD REMAIN VALID AND THERE COULD BE CASES IN WHICH JAPAN COULD POSSESS TACTICAL NUCLEAR WEAPONS.

2. FONOFF SY DIV DIRECTOR TOLD EMBOFF TODAY THAT AS FAR AS HE KNEW SONODA STATEMENT WAS NOT PREPARED IN ADVANCE,

BUT THAT IT WAS LOGICAL IN VIEW OF NPT.

3. COMMENT. WHILE WE HAVE GONE THROUGH SEVERAL WEEKS OF
CONCENTRATED DISCUSSION OF NUCLEAR ISSUES, WHICH SUGGESTED
TO SOME OBSERVERS THAT NUCLEAR ALLERGY MIGHT BE ERODING,
EPISODE INDICATES THERE REMAIN FORMIDABLE CONSTRAINTS ON
JAPAN IN THIS SENSITIVE AREA WHICH GOVERNMENT CLEARLY
DOES NOT WISH TO CHALLENGE.

MANSFIELD

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION, AGREEMENTS, POLICIES, NUCLEAR WEAPONS, DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS
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Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 feb 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
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